

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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Alabama to Assist Hurricane Evacuees from Louisiana and Mississippi File for Unemployment Compensation Benefits

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, September 1, 2005The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations is lending a hand to help hurricane victims from Louisiana and Mississippi file for unemployment compensation benefits.

In Alabama, a call center system for filing Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) claims, as well as regular unemployment compensation claims, has been in place for three years. Some states, such as Louisiana and Mississippi, do not have a system in place to call in for benefits.

"We hope that this will help expedite assistance for those people who have become unemployed either because of Hurricane Katrina or for some other reason have lost a job through no fault of their own," says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

Evacuees from Louisiana and Mississippi, in Alabama, may call 1-866-234-5382 to file a regular unemployment compensation claim against wages from their state. Alabama will send that information electronically back to the state of origin as soon as that state is able to receive the information. A notation will be made on the claim if the person is unemployed as a result of the disaster. Also, those filing against wages from Louisiana may now file benefits over the Internet at: <http://www.laworks.net>.

Generally, persons who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but a claimant may qualify for DUA if state unemployment compensation benefits are exhausted.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: www.dir.alabama.gov.